

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today that after months of working with U.S. Postal officials to prevent the closure of the South Gate Post Office in Sarasota, the facility will remain open.

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has removed South Gate, which was dedicated to Brigadier General John H. McLain in 2004, from a list of post offices for possible closure or consolidation.

“The South Gate Post Office has been a thriving part of the community since it opened in 1955,” said Buchanan. “This is great news for area residents and companies that rely on the post office at South Gate for convenient and efficient mail service.”

“I understand the need for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to cut costs,” added Buchanan, “but some of the county’s largest businesses and employers rely on South Gate for easy access to close, reliable mail services. It made no sense financially to close this thriving facility.”

Buchanan met at the South Gate Post Office in August with officials from the USPS and wrote to the U.S. Post Master General urging him to keep the popular facility open.

“We thank Congressman Buchanan for his swift action to keep South Gate open,” said Kindra Obermeier, the President of the American Postal Workers Union, Sarasota Local #1073. “We are also very proud of the community’s efforts and are pleased to see them rewarded with the post office remaining.”

The South Gate Post Office was on an initial list of about 3,300 stations and branches to be examined for closure or consolidation. The USPS announced today that fewer than 170 post offices remain on the list and South Gate is not one of them.

There were no other post offices in Florida’s 13th District on the potential closure or consolidation list.